

Serial No. 10/748,247
Docket No. 2695-061A
Page 11

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 5, 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, and 27 are pending, all of which are independent.

The title is amended for clarity.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 5, 13, 17, 21, 23, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shoji (JP 08-318050).

To expedite prosecution, independent method claims 5 and 13 are amended to recite a control method for proceeding with a video game having a combination of steps, including creating and registering a voice message for a game character calling to a player character in accordance with progress of the game on the basis of a set character string indicating a way of calling the player character or a preset calling word, wherein in creating and registering the voice message, if an accent cannot be determined based on one or more dictionaries for speech synthesis, a plurality of voice message accent types are displayed on a screen to enable the player to select one at will. Comparable changes are made to computer-readable medium claims 23 and 25.

Similarly, independent apparatus claims 17, 21, and 27 are amended to recite a video game controller having a combination of elements, wherein voice message creating means are arranged for determining an accent based on one or more dictionaries for speech

Serial No. 10/748,247
Docket No. 2695-061A
Page 12

synthesis and, if the accent cannot be determined based on the one or more dictionaries for speech synthesis, a plurality of accent types of the voice message are displayed on a screen to enable the player to select them at will.

Support for the foregoing amendments is found at pages 13 and 14 of the instant specification.

Nowhere does Shoji disclose a method, computer-readable medium, or apparatus having the combinations of steps and features set forth in the amended independent claims. According to Applicants' claimed subject matter, the accent types for a particular registered voice message need not be displayed, and a player not need select accent types on the basis of set character strings if the accent can be determined based on one or more dictionaries for speech synthesis.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Shoji does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in the amended independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

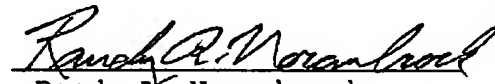
To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not

Serial No. 10/748,247
Docket No. 2695-061A
Page 13

otherwise provided for, including processing, extension, and extra
claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,
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